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REPORT NO.

## INFORMATION REPORT

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East Germany

DATE DISTR. 19 October 1953

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Tank Repair Shops in East Germany

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Neubrandenburg.

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1. In March 1953, [ ] a VP tank and motor vehicle repair shop on Augustabad Strasse in Neubrandenburg. A total of 300 VPs and 50 Soviet soldiers were seen there. Only the VP section of the installation was guarded. <sup>1</sup>

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3. On 1 May 1953, [ ] the entire area of the former Torpedo Versuchsanstalt (Torpedo Test Plant) (T.V.A.) was blocked off in a perimeter of 300 meters. Off-limit sign boards had been put up on all roads leading to the installation. Two large boards enlettered Ran Union Schwerin were seen in the area of the installation. <sup>2</sup> On 5 May, [ ] the Soviets had vacated the T.V.A. and the Augustabad Hotel except for some ammunition bunkers and that the Soviet unit involved had moved to the Panzer Kaserne. The vacated apartments had been occupied by skilled workers and members of the factory police. [ ] a T-34 tank and five SP guns, which had probably come from the vicinity of Fuenfeichen, were parked at the installation by VPs on 3 May. [ ] a layout sketch of the installation from memory. <sup>1</sup>

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4. On 26 May [ ] the large bunker located in Lake Tollense and previously used as an observation point by the "Versuchsanstalt fuer Unterwasserfahrzeuge und Unterwasserwaffen" (Testing Station for Submerged Vessels and Weapons) was being reconstructed. The designs for the new bunker were made by the "Entwurfsbureau fuer Industriebau" Berlin IV at Magerviehnhof in Berlin-Weissensee. The buildings of the testing station on the north bank of the lake were also being reconstructed. <sup>2</sup>
5. In June, the reconstruction of the former T.V.A. in Neubrandenburg was in full swing. The project has been given the code designation "Elbe". The construction supervisors told that a new tank repair shop would be erected on the site of the T.V.A. In June, about 1,300 workers were employed on the project. Construction work was supervised by VP Major Berndt (fnu) of the HVA in Berlin. He was assisted by construction supervisor Rock (fnu) and VP Captain (Tech) Grund (fnu). <sup>3</sup>

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Prior to early June, the fence around the installation and the lighting facilities were completed, which made outside observation almost impossible. Work was being done on the foundations for the large workshop, which is to be provided with trusses of a load capacity of 30 tons each. <sup>2</sup>

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Ziesar.

6. In 1945, the German tank ordnance depot located near Ziesar, south of the road to Buecknitz was destroyed. By 1951, the installation had been rebuilt and taken over by the Soviets. At present, a Soviet tank repair shop and a tank spare parts depot are located at the installation, which consists of four or five large storage sheds and an administration building. <sup>4</sup>

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7. According to local residents, a Soviet spare parts depot for tanks and motor vehicles is located near Ziesar. Among others, motors of all types, chiefly tank motors, and tank tracks are reportedly stored there. <sup>4</sup> The installation is located between the Ziesar-Glienicke and Ziesar-Buecknitz highways, about two km northeast of Ziesar. The installation, which covers an area of about 400 x 500 meters, has a railroad connection. [ ] about six large workshops. <sup>4</sup> In mid-November 1952, the Soviet sold about 100 captured trucks after a corresponding number of new Soviet trucks had arrived by rail. It is believed that these new trucks were distributed among Soviet troop units. <sup>5</sup>

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8. The supply depot in Ziesar was built in 1937/38. At present, the installation is used as a Soviet tank and motor vehicle spare parts depot. Tank engines are also stored there. The depot is reportedly exclusively used by the Soviet Army. An estimated four officers and 30 EM who wore red-bordered black epaulets were assigned to the installation. Administratively, the installation appeared to be attached to a headquarters in Altengrabow, as the money required for the workers' pay was picked up there. [ ] sketch of the installation. <sup>4</sup> [ ] from a railroadman that motors and new trucks were unloaded on 1 June from boxcars and flatcars which had arrived at the depot from the direction of Guesen. Incoming shipments arrived almost exclusively by rail. <sup>4</sup>

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9. In April, several single-story temporary buildings were newly erected at the tank spare parts depot northeast of Ziesar. The personnel assigned to the installation appeared to have been increased. In late April, source observed about 65 new trucks and 15 to 18 radio trucks at the installation [ ] and was headed by Major Tachenko (fnu) who was released by Major Sarmina (fnu) in mid-April.

Schoenebeck/Elbe.

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10. In February, [ ] a Soviet tank repair shop in the area of the former Sprengstoffabrik (Explosives Plant) in Schoenebeck west of Magdeburger Strasse and north of Blauer Steinweg. Tanks undergoing trial runs were frequently seen in the adjacent area. In early February, [ ] a train which carried four T-34/85 tanks [ ] at Schoenebeck railroad station.

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Wurzen.

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11. In March and April, [ ] a Soviet tank repair shop was located in the area of the emergency depot of the Uerdingen Railroad Car Factory on Lueptitzer Strasse. A section of the depot mentioned was also used by the Annular Spring Factory in Wurzen. Only tank engines were being repaired at the tank repair shop. Motor vehicle repairs are performed at a shop in Leipzig. Trucks carrying motors from the railroad station and the tank repair shop and vice versa were frequently seen in Wurzen. Work at the installation was done in three shifts. An underground tank engine test stand had apparently been installed at the tank repair shop, which had about 60 trucks [ ]

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Fuerstenberg on the Havel River.

- 25X1 12. In February 1953, [REDACTED] the tank repair shop was still located at the Fibre Plant in Fuerstenberg.
- 25X1 1. [REDACTED] Comment. The establishment in Neubrandenburg of a KVP tank repair shop was also reported [REDACTED] For layout sketch of the installation, see Annex [REDACTED].
- 25X1 2. [REDACTED] Comment. The extent of construction work done in the area of the Torpedo Test Plant of the former German Navy indicates that a naval installation is being built there along side the tank repair shop existing in this area. See also [REDACTED] In the summer of 1952, the German Sea Police was observed conducting in the area concerned activities which were similar in nature to those conducted by the Torpedo Test Plant. [REDACTED]. No further naval research work was observed after the fall of 1952.
- 25X1 3. [REDACTED] Comment. The two KVP officers mentioned were known previously. Major Berndt is an instructor of the armored branch, while Captain (Tech) Grund is chief of the Administration for Construction Projects of Armeegruppe Nord.
- 25X1 4. [REDACTED] Comment. For layout sketch of the installation, see Annex 2. A tank spare parts depot and a motor vehicle repair shop, [REDACTED] are located 25X1 in Ziesar. Both installations belong to the 3d Shock Army.
- 25X1 5. [REDACTED] Comment. The motor vehicles sold by the Soviets were deactivated and replaced in 1952. [REDACTED]. Generally, the deactivated vehicles were returned to the USSR. The selling of used vehicles to civilian agencies in East Germany was only reported from Ziesar and Jueterbog.
- 25X1 6. [REDACTED] Comment. The two officers mentioned were known previously.
- 25X1 7. [REDACTED] Comment.
- 25X1 8. [REDACTED] For sketch of the installation, see Annex 3.
- 25X1 9. [REDACTED] Comment. According to previous information, it was believed that a branch depot of the 54th Central Repair Shop in Leipzig existed in Wurzen. As no incoming or outgoing motor vehicle shipments were observed in Wurzen during the last year, it is inferred that this branch depot has been deactivated. Annex 4 to [REDACTED] is to be corrected accordingly. It was known previously that tank motor repair shop [REDACTED] located in this area.

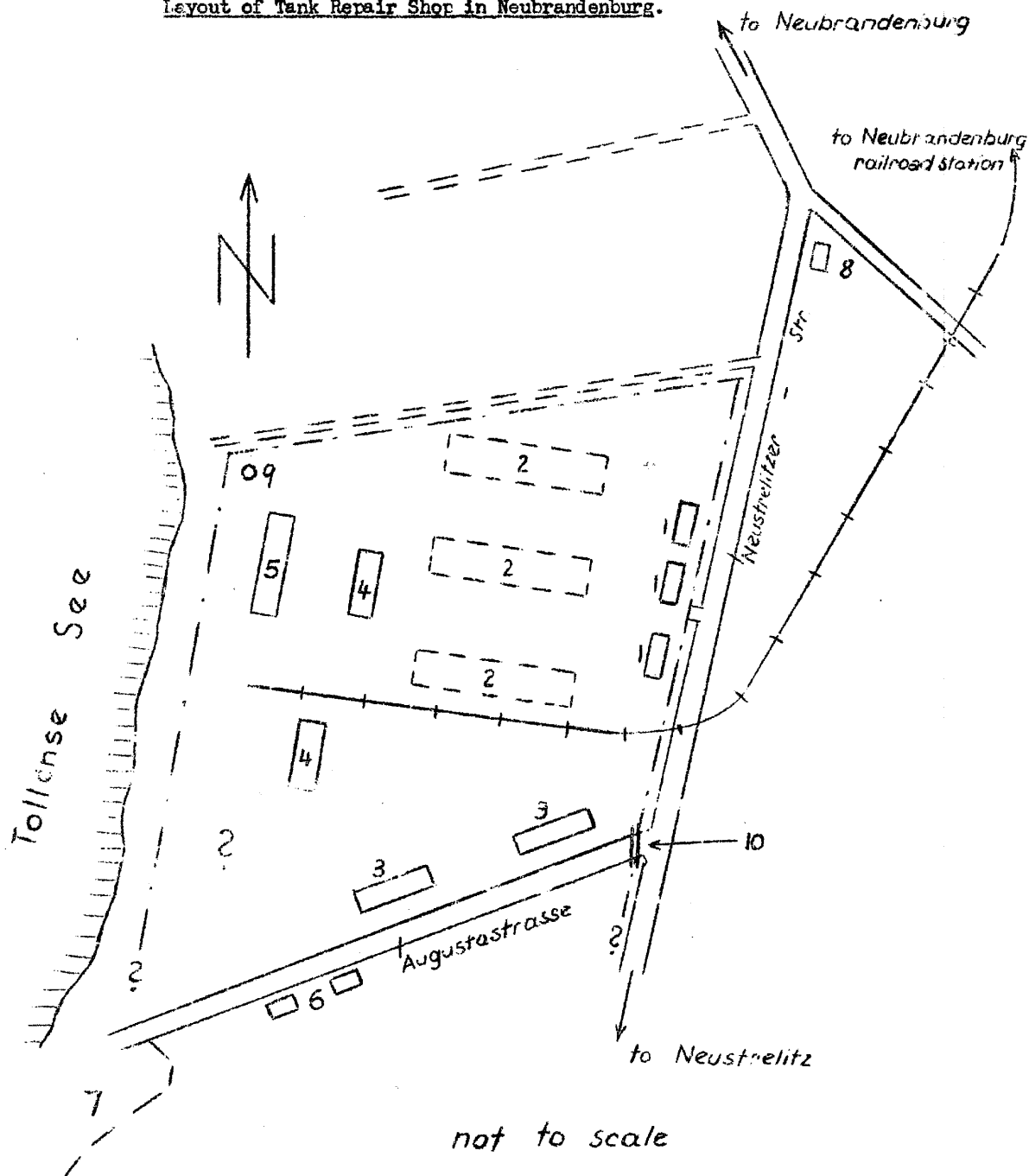
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## Annex 1

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Layout of Tank Repair Shop in Neubrandenburg.



Legend:

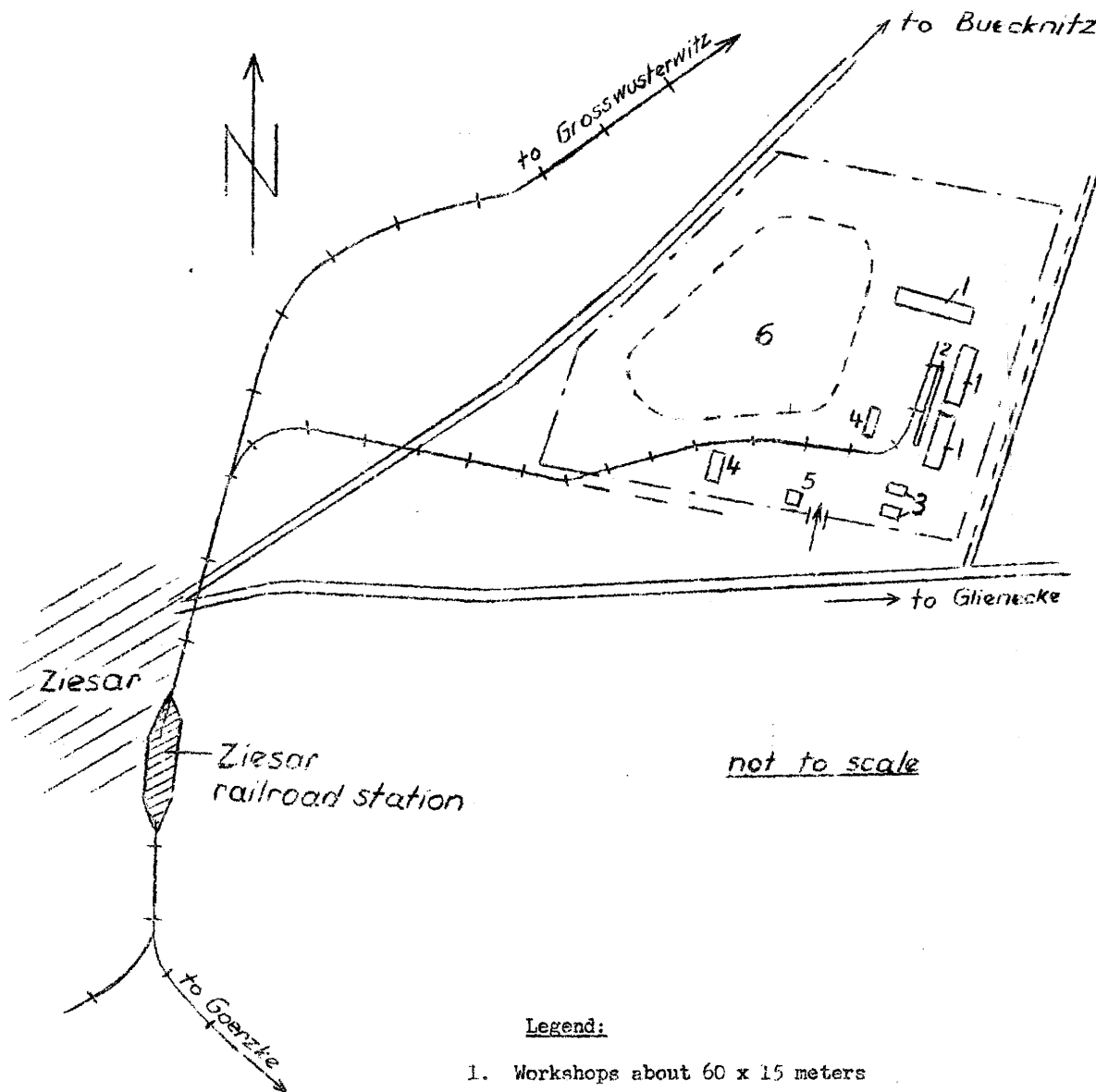
1. Presumably administrative buildings, permanent two story structures,
2. From 20 to 30 low wooden buildings,
3. Permanent two-story buildings,
4. Permanent workshops,
5. Tank repair shop,
6. Private houses vacated by the civilian population,
7. Augustabad,
8. Hotel and HC depot,
9. Observation tower,
10. Guarded roadblock.

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Layout of Tank Repair Shop at Ziesar.



Legend:

1. Workshops about 60 x 15 meters
2. Loading ramp
3. Probably quartering buildings
4. Temporary single-story buildings
5. Guardhouse
6. Area with an undetermined number of buildings.

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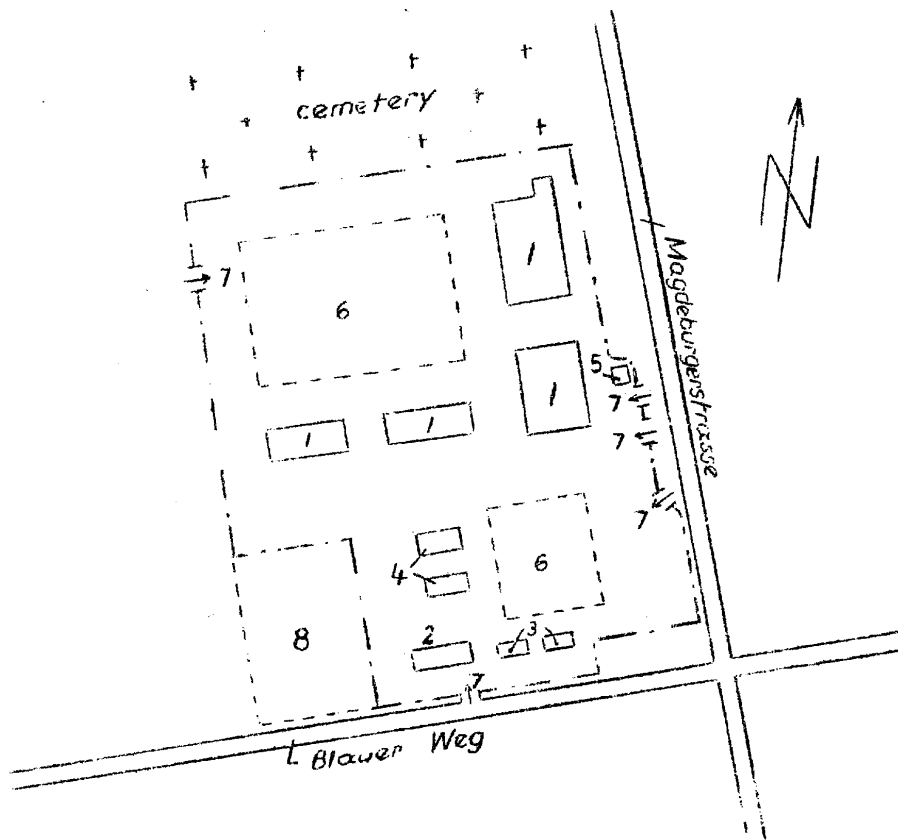
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Tank Repair Shop in Schoenebeck.

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Legend:

1. Workshops
2. Kitchen and Messhall
3. Dwelling houses
4. Underground bunkers
5. Guardhouse
6. No details available on the buildings in this area
7. Gates
8. Scrap dump.

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